Vol. XXXV No. 10,821.

THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

CAUCUS SCENES.

A NOTABLE EVENT AT THE CAPITOL-THE DEMO-CRATS IN POSSESSION-ROUGH LOOKING ELE-MENTS IN THE CROWD-MR. RANDALL DEFRATED BY THE DISTRUST FELT OF PENNSYLVANIA POLI-

INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 .- The caucus of the Demoeratic Representatives, in the hall of the House yes terday, was one of the most notable events of recent Congressional history. For a quarter of a century the Democratic party has been obliged to occupy back seats in national politics, and to see them flock once more in formidable numbers to this city, and even take possession of one wing of the National Capitol, was a sight long to be remembered. The gathering of the claus began as early as noon, although the caucus was not to meet until two hours later, and actually was not called to order until nearly 3 o'clock. To one who has been accustomed to frequent the Capitol of late years the crowd was mainly composed of strangers. Here and there, interspersed throughout it, were a few Democrats with whose faces we had become familiar in the last and previous Congresses, and a handful of Republicans ventured in upon the floor early in the afternoon, although they seemed to feel hardly at home in the chamber where they had ruled so many years. The old officers and employés of the House were also there, many of them at their old posts as from force of habit, but their faces were a sad and anxious look, for they felt that the places that have known them so long would soon know them no more.

While it may be possible to form an intelligent estimate of a single man, or of a small group of men, by a brief observation of them, it is not in the power of any one to judge fairly at first sight of a great moving crowd, like that which gathered in the House yesterday. Some remarked that the impression made by the new members was not good; that they showed few outward signs of ability or strength of character; in fact, that there were more bummers than men of brains; but this was evidently an unfair criticism. It should be remembered that mingling with the new Democratic Representatives were twice their number of office-seekers, a class of men that has not been attracted to Washington at the opening of any former Congress for years. Some of these were seedy and shabby enough, while others of them, on whom tortune or some loaning friend had smiled, bore on their faces and showed in their manners signs of training not acquired in schools or in polite society. These men, who could not always be distinguished by a stranger from a Represenative from their district, contributed to lower the apparent tone of the assembly. Of course, all who have come here in search of offices are not of the classes described.

Shortly before 2 o'clock the employés of the last House began to clear the floor of the outsiders, who swarmed first into the lobbies and then into the spacious corridors which surround the chamber. The especial friends of the candidates gathered in convenient committee rooms. Some prominent Republicans took possession of the clerk's office, and a great crowd flowed back and forth through the lobbies or vatnly besieged the entrances to the House. Two hours had been spent in discussing the prospects of the leading candidates for the Speakership and Clerkship, and it is a remarkable fact, that up to the time the doors were closed, no one, except perhaps the candidates themselves and their nearest friends, knew how the canvass stood.

Every step in the proceedings of the caucus was immediately known in the lebbies. Mr. Lamar's throng outside, before its delivery was finished, and the ups and downs of the debate on the method of taking the vote could be followed almost as intelligently in the corridors and committee-rooms as by those who were actually listening to it. As the preparations for the balloting were made, the excitement increased, and it finally reached fever heat when the result of the third ballot was announced, and it was learned that Mr. Kerr was nominated. His friends, of course, were jubilant. They tossed their hats in the air, slapped each other on the shoulder, and shouted until they were hoarse. Mr. Randall's friends were depressed in a corresponding degree, and hurried away out of sight as fast as

they could. When the nomination for Speaker was made the hour for dinner had arrived, and the caucus at once took a recess. This caused the doors to be opened, and the throng rushed in to repeat on the floor their demonstrations on the outside. Mr. Randall took his defeat good-naturedly, and his friends, who gathered about him, predicted that he would find the floor fully as pleasant and useful a place for him as the chair of the presiding officer. Of course the nominations of the caucus have disappointed many, but the sober second thought of all the better class of Democrats, even of those who supported Mr. Randall, is that the caucus has done its work well, and that its action has strengthened the party. Mr. Kerr is a man above repreach. Even his political opponents have nothing to say against his character or his record as a legislator, and no one ever accused him of helping to uphold a corrupt ring, or even looking upon it with leniency. On the currency question he is as sound as any Eastern man can be. His record in opposition to subsidice of every kind is unbroken, and he does not hesitate to avow his principles on this subject. While none of the accusations made against Mr. Randall during the canvaes were proved, and while those who know him best believe that none of them could be proved, the fact remains that they were repeatedly made, and that they would be believed by many, and might prevent the growth of public confidence in the party which elected him. Again, Mr. Randall's character is not of that stern, unbending kind, which always goes right ahead, no matter what may happen. In his kindness of heart, he has more than once opposed his own party, when it has attempted to prevent an increase of salary for House employés, and the friendship of many of these for him is explained by the hope that if he was elected he would stand between some of them and a prompt dismissal. Mr. Kerr is a man of more diguity and firmness, and will command much more respect, although he lacks almost all those qualities which make a man personally popular with those with whom he comes in contact. The fact that Mr. Randall comes from Pennsylvania was probably an element of weakness. His high tariff principles do not, of course, accord with those of a majority of his party; but the fact that the people of the country seem to have lost confidence in Pennsylvania politicians as a class, probably hurt him more than his advocacy of protection. The Democrats of the State are probably less to blame for this distrust of Pennsylvania politicians than the Republicans, but both

The action of the caucus, taken altogether, is almost universally looked upon as a great triumph for the Eastern or Tilden branch of the Democracy over the Western inflationists. It has been commonly remarked that the election of an Eastern Speaker would throw the Presidential nomination next year into the West, and vice versa. Now that the highest three officers of the House have been taken from the West, and the Speaker is at the same time an advocate of hard money, it has alarmed the friends of Mr. Hendricks and other Western candidates. The extreme men of the South have also been left out in the cold. The man nominated for the clerkship was a Union soldier, who worried the Dubose, the son-in-law of Toombs, and Mr. Banks.

Joe Johnston's chief commissary and several from the National Democratic Committee, had very little support. The general feeling is that the Democrate the head of the Committee on the Centennial. He Confederates in Kentucky during the war more than

parties have to suffer.

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1875.-WITH SUPPLEMENT.

CAREER OF THE CANDIDATE.

did a good day's work yesterday, and will be stronger

The Hon. Michael C. Kerr, the candidate of the Democratic caucus for the Speakership of the House of Representatives, was born near Titusville, Crawford County, Penn., on March 15, 1827, of parents in moderate circumstances. He was chiefly self-educated, but studied at the Eric Academy, where he was graduated at the age of 18. During his attendance at the Academy Mr. Kerr became attached to Miss Coover, a school teacher in Erie, and immediately after his graduation married her. At his request the marriage was kept a secret until his return from the West, where he remained about two years. By teaching school Mr. Kerr earned the means to defray his expenses at the Louisville University, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1851. In 1852 he began the practice of law in the office of Judge Smith, at New-Albany, Ind., nearly opposite Louisville on the Ohio River. His ability, industry, and integrity soon brought him to the notice of the public, and in 1854 he was elected City Attorney at New-Albany. One year later he was chosen Prosecuting Attorney of the county (Floyd). In 1856 and 1857 he was a member of the Indiana Legislature. Five years later, in 1862, he was elected Re-porter of the Supreme Court of Indiana, and edited five rolumes of reports. In 1864 Mr. Kerr was elected as a Democrat to the XXXIXth Congress, in which he served on the Committees on Private Land Claims and on Ac counts. In the XLth Congress he was a member of the Committees on Elections and Roads and Canals. In the XLIst Congress Mr. Kerr was a member of the Civil Service Committee, and in the XLIId was a member of Committee on Ways and Means. In 1872 was defeated for Congressman-at-Large in the XLIIId Congress, by Godlove S. Orth, the Administration candidate, who received a majority of 126. Mr. Kerr was elected to the XLIVth Congress in 1874 by a majority of 1,209 out of a total of 26,573 votes. While yet a young man Mr. Kerr's eareer was foreshadowed by the late Judge John Galbraith of the Eric District, who said: "That young man will make his mark in the world, should be live and not meet with serious pull-backs. His native ability, of which he has a goodly share, hightened by application, and his quick perceptions, added to his sterling integrity, will soon bring him forword. I would not be surprised to see him go up, step by step, until he reaches eminence." Mr. Kerr is an un ompromising Free Trader, and before the war was an extreme States' Rights man. He is in favor of hard money, but has not committed himself to any time or manner of resumption. It is stated that it was on his father's farm near Titusville that the first oil was found. In the year 1854, before the discovery, his father sold the place for \$9,500. Four years later the same place sold for over a quarter of a million.

[For Routine Report of the Caucus, see Second Page.

COMMITTEE PROBABILITIES. GOOD WORK EXPECTED OF MR. KERR IN FORMING RANDALL TO BE THE LEADERS OF THE HOUSE-WHO ARE CANDIDATES-PROPORTION OF THE PARTIES ON THE COMMITTEES.

INV TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 .- Mr. Kerr is no doubt at work already on his Committee list. He is entirely untrammeled by pledges, and as he is altogether too high-minded a man to be influenced in the performance of this most important duty by personal feeling in favor of those who supported him in his canvass for the Speakership, or by prejudice against those who sustained Mr. Randall, we may expect that he will be governed by only two considerations which ought to have weight-the talents and experience of members, and the proper claims of locality. Chairmanships were promised tiberally by some of his inimmediately known in the feodors. Al. Lampr speech upon taking the chair was discussed by a discreet supporters, but there is the best reason for throng outside before its delivery was finished, and saying that such provides were wholly without his authority or knowledge. The men who made them will scarcely venture to intimate to the new Speaker that he ought to reward with prominent places on the Committees, either his original partisans or those who were won over to his support by hopes of preferment. Mr. Kerr is not the sort of man to listen to such suggestions with patience or even with courtesy. He will make up his list, guided by his own judgment, and by precedents that have come to have the force of parliamentary law. His task will not be as hard a one as was Mr. Blaine's after each of his three elections. The Democrats title to consideration, are not numerous enough to stand in each other's way. The list of such members does not much more than supply names enough for the important chairmanships. Current speculation as to who are to fill these positions has, there fore, a much better chance than usual of hitting the mark. Ask any two men, familiar with the customs governing the formation of committees, who are likely to have ten or twelve first-rate chairmanships, and you will find their guesses remarkably similar.

The Ways and Means Committee will, it is be lieved, be given to Fernando Wood, on account of his long service, his prominence, and the fact that his views on the tariff agree with those of the heavy majority of Democratic members. The Chairmanship of the Committee on Appropriations is the most important this session, because the retrenchment of Government expenses is a controlling feature on the Democratic programme. Samuel J. Randall will, by common consent, be the Chairman of this Committee. He has annually expressed the belief that the total expenses can be reduced \$50,000,000, and will have a chance to show how it can be done. Mr. Randall and Mr. Wood will divide the honor of leadership, just as Mr. Dawes and Mr. Garfield did during the last two Congresses. S. S. Cox would by previous service be entitled to the Banking and Currency Committee, but it would not do to give three financial chairmanships to the East. It is believed that he may get that of Foreign Affairs, for which he is well fitted by his extensive travels and knowledge of the world Though the name of Gen. Banks, who has already served as Chairman of this Committee, has been suggested, he did not enter the Democratic caucus yesterday. The place for Mr. Holman is the head of the Claims or War Claims Committee, where his vigilance in watching for jobs will save millions

to the Treasury, L. Q. C. Lamar, the acknowledged leader of the Southern members, will have a prominent chairmanship, probably either that of Elections, on which he has already served, or of Banking and Currency. Mr. Hancock is talked of in connection with the Pacific Railroad Committee. Although a Texas member, he is understood not to be in favor of Col. Scott's subsidy scheme, at least in its present form. Milton Sayler of Ohio is by general report assigned to the Judiciary Committee. An excellent chairman for the District of Columbia Committee, and one not at all desired by Mr. Shepherd and the Babcock Ring, would be Smith Ely, jr., of New-York, an old member, returned after two years' absence. For the Naval Committee, Mr. Whitthorne

of Tennessee is the most spoken of. The Indian Committee will be of unusual importance this session, because of the investigation it will be called upon to make of the frauds in the Indian service. Mr. Wells of Missouri, Mr. Harris of Virginia, and Mr. Durham of Kentucky are mentioned as fit men for the chairmanship. Mr. Swann of Maryland will probably hold the Banking and Currency Committee or that on Foreign Affairs, if the latter does not fall to Mr. Cox. For the Public Lands Committee Mr. Hereford of West Virginia Mr. Proctor Knott of Kentucky, and Mr. Bright of Tennessee are mentioned. Mr. Alexander H. Stephens will, of course, have a prominent place. He is talked of for Chairman of the Committee on

would also make a good Chairman of the Civil

Service Committee.

For the Military Committee there is a lack of candidates, owing to a scarcity of prominent Democrats who served on the Union side in the war. Mr. Banning of Ohio would fill the place creditably. Other old members whose prominence entitles them to chairmanships are Mr. Morrison of Illinois, Mr. Faulkner of West Virginia, Mr. Buckner and Mr. Stone of Missouri, Mr. Barnum of Cennecticut, Mr. Weddell of North Carolina, Mr. Luttrell of California the will probably have Mines and Mining or Territories), Mr. Caldwell of Alabama, Mr. Hunton of Virginia, and Mr. O'Brien of Maryland. There will be chairmanships for all of them, though not in all cases of importance, suited to their wishes.

Among the new members of national reputation who have a right to expect as good assignments as fall to the lot of new-comers in Congress are Benjamin Hill of Georgia, John Goode, jr., and ex-Gov. Walker of Virginia, Mr. Throckmorton and Mr. Reagan of Texas, Mr. Singleton of Mississippi, Mr. Payne of Obio, and Mr. Seelye of Massachusetts.

The principal committees are composed of eleven members each. There are 291 members of the House, of whom 168 are Democrats, 109 Republicans, and 14 Liberals or Independents. To ascertain how many members of each committee eleven Democrats are entitled to, and how many belong to Republicans, it is only necessary to do a little ciphering in the rule of three. As 291 is to 109, so is 11 to the number of members the Republicans can claim on a committee. This gives four and a small fraction, but fractions by long established custom do not count for the minority, but do for the majority. Leaving out the Liberals and Independents, and applying the same process to the Democrats, gives them 612 men. The half man will count for a whole one, and the committees will stand therefore, Deme erats, 7: Republicans, 4.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THE GREAT RUSH

FOR OFFICES. WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.-Representative Kerr received many of his friends to-day, who called to congratulate him on his nomination for Speaker. All meede his fitness for the position. The remarks of Representative Randall in the cancus, and his motion to make the nomination unanimous, are everywhere spoken of in terms of commendation. Surprise is expressed that the West and the South carried all the offices. For the 200 or 300 subordinate places there are at least 1,000 applicants, not a few of whom are already at work to se cure the respective positions, including those of folders, pages, and both-room attendants. A dozen or more applicants want the privilege of keeping the restaurant, which some years been in the possession of George T. Downing (colored). Some of the defeated candidates complain that certain members who promised them support were guilty of a breach of faith, having deserted them on the bollot. At least a dozen of the defeated candidates came hither with high expectations, but now wonder that they had so little strength. J. L. Townsend, who has charge of an Episcopal Church in Washington, and who recewel the majority of the votes of the caucus for Chaplain of the House, was nominated by the Hon, W. H. Barnum, who stated that Mr. Townsend had been driven out of Connecticut by the Republicans of that State for his political views. The first business of to-morrow will consist of Pherson, the present Clerk, and the administration of the oath of effice, and next the election of Spenker, Clerk, Doorkeeper, Scrigenit, at-Arms, Pestmaster, and Chaplain. Questions affeeting the seats of some of the members may arise,

and therefore the organization be protracted by de-In view of such an event, the President will not fransmit his message to Congress until Tuesday at noon, which is the more probable time for that purpose. There is much speculation with regard to the appointment of the standing committees of the House, and already Representative Randall has been has arrived from Hong Kong via Yekohama. She brings accorded by outsiders the chairmanship of the Committee on Appropriations; Fernando Wood the frigate, commanded by Capt. Ito, ins just started out on Ways and Means, and Cox, Foreign Affairs. But a cruise in American waters. She touched first at San such a cast is of course without the least authority. Francisco. No immediate action will be taken by Japan and several weeks may clapse before the Speaker against Corea. The Government resists the pressure in uself shall announce the committees.

THE MESSAGE AND CUBA. A LONG PAPER AND AN UNUSUALLY GOOD ONE-OUR POSITION TOWARD CUBA AND OTHER FORMER SPANISH COLONIES.

JUX THEEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 5.-The President's Message will not be sent to Congress until Tuesday. It will be longer than usual, and will contain about eighteen thousand words. His previous messages have not exceeded ten thousand words. The Mes sage will no doubt be the ablest state paper of this Administration. The passage relating to Cuba will be quite long. It is understood that in the course of the consideration of the Spanish question, a parallel is drawn between the position assumed by us toward other Spanish American colonies and that more recently maintained respecting Cuba. We did not recognize the former for nearly eight years after their quarrel with the mother country began. The inference lies near, that a similar course may be pursued toward Cuba. The recognition of the belligerent rights of these colonies did not produce a war, although there was the same Spanish bluster then that is now exhibited. Our naval preparations then were similar to those that have recently been made.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

A WARNING TO DEMOCRATS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1875. One of the Democratic Sunday papers has a pecultar advertisement. It is a cut of the Club-house, with a letter-press which contains the follow-

If you are Democrats who really want to see your party successful next year, and the Republic preserved and honesty again introduced into our Administration, then you will not go near that siren club-house within one hundred yords. If you nevely intend to use your Congressional term for the purpose of making money as fast as possible, then go there. The papers that still war for liberty and a true republican form of government will watch you, and publish your names in the latter case as venial traitors to your party, your God, and your country. That club-house has been built with money obtained through that swinding Freedings's Bureau Bank from the poor colored people in all parts of the country. The ground and every stone of the paintial building belong to the tolling masses of the former slaves—the negroes of the United States. you are Democrats who really want to see

AGAIN DECLINED WITH THANKS. Ex-Gov. Ward of New-Jersey has declined the Indian Commissionership by the following letter:

the Indian Commissionership by the following letter: Washington, D. C., Nov. 30, 1875.

To His Excellency U. S. Grant, President,
Sinc; I have carefully considered the question of the Indian Commissionership. I appreciate better than I can state the honor of being thus connected with an Administration which, with just people, is now and in history will be so distinguished for ability and patriotism; but, having been engaged in a detail of business for many years until weary of it, I bestate taking upon me the foll incident to the administration of the Indian Bureau, and finding my family, who sometimes judge better of our duty than ourselves, unwilling that I should assume the labors of the position, I am constrained to decline. Thanking you for this mark of confidence, I am, with the highest respect, very truly yours, Marcus L. Ward.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH. UTICA, N. Y., Dec. 5.—John Scannell, the mur-erer of Donobue, was delivered to the authorities of the same asylum in this city last night.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 5.—Matt McCord was arrested in Livermore County, Ky., Friday, and brought here by the United states Marshal, for setting up a bogus lottery, and using the mails to promote its interest. BOSTON, Dec. 5.—George A. Walker of New-Bed-ford, a freight conductor on the Boston and Providence Railroad while coupling cars in this city last evening was crushed between the bumpers and died in an hour.

FOREIGN NEWS.

MINISTER CUSHING'S NEGOTIATIONS. MADRID, Dec. 5, 1875.

Mr. Cushing, the United States Minister, has had a long conference with Schor Collantes, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is understood that the negotiations continue to be satisfactory.

.SPANISH NOTES.

MADRID, Dec. 5, 1875. Heavy snow continues to retard military

operations in Guipuzcoa. Spinola has been appointed Mayor of Madrid to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of the Count of Toreno

Electoral tickets are to be distributed through Spain from the 5th to the 10th of December. The Spanish Legation at Lisbon has been raised to the rank of an embassy, and Señor Castro has been appointed

Embassador to the Portuguese Court.

THE MISSING STEAMER L'AMERIQUE. QUEENSTOWN, Saturday, Dec. 4, 1875.

The steamship Ville de Brest of the General Transatlantic Company has sailed from this port to seek her sister ship L'Amerique, before reported disabled at about latitude 49° north; longitude 20° west. LONDON, Dec. 5, 1875.

Her Majesty's ship Valorous has sailed from The North German Lloyd's steamer Koln reports she

speke the Aémrique in lat. 49° 10° north, and lon. 17°

TERRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

A terrible explosion took place Saturday in the Powell Dufiryn Pit near Tredegar. Twenty miners were killed, and ten have been taken out severely in-

THE TRANSATLANTIC CABLE COMPANIES. London, Saturday, Dec. 4, 1875.

There has latterly been a rumor that the Angle-American Cable Company desire to augment the present rates of telegraphic tells between Europe and America. The Daily News to-day says: "The Board of yesterday refused to accede to certain demands of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company relative to tariffs. The result will probably be a renewed contest between the rival companies, and a low tardf."

> THE CHINESE EMPIRE. FOREIGNERS STILL MOLESTED.

Hong Kong, Dec. 3.-The Chinese Government views the growing relations between Turkey and Kashgar with some marm. The Kashgar soldiers are becoming rapidly proficient under Turkish training. A new and conciliatory policy toward the Mohammedans is said to be contemplated by the Peking authori-

Ridel, the French Bishop of Corea, and Abbe Blane left Newchwang, intending to penetrate Corea, disguised as

There is continued trouble between foreigners and Chinese. American musiomaries and ladies are assailed by mobs in Nanking, and an English lady was attacked from their work near Fuchau, and the Amoy officials

protest their limbility to control the populace. ines are now merely nominal. All but 200 Chinese sol ines are now merely nominal. All but 200 Chinese soldiers, of the inwest class, have been withdrawn, and the forts unit by the Chinese are suffered to fall into decay.

Although it is admitted on all sides that Mr. Wade has secured promises to neede to all his demands graving out the Marsuray affeir, a general dissatisfaction is manifested by the British community in China on account of the slowness of Fis Inovenents, and an increasing auspicion prevails that the Government will find means to evade its piedges and eventually outwit the English Minister. Opinions are freely expressed that Margaray's minister will never be properly aloned for.

An Imperial decree, conceding free intercourse on stated occasions between foreign Ministers and heads of departments of Peking has had been published in The Official Gazette, and received with great surprise and signs of irritation by a class of different and inferior mandarius.

WAR WITH COREA AVERIED.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5 .- The steamer Gaelie redress in due season and by a regular and measured

in the future.

Two important members of the Government-Shimadzee Saburo and Itagoki Jaiske-have resigned their offices. It is currently reported that these resignations are the result of disputés on the Corea questian, but this is untrue. They were dissatisfied, on different grounds, with the measures of internal policy adopted by the Ad-

with the measures of internal policy adopted by the Administration.

Preparations are in progress for the opening of the new nort, Tsuraga, on the north-west coust of Japan, in the Bouin Islams, to be entouried by Japanese.

All the Japanese inhabitants of the Island of Saghallen, which has been coded to Russa, have potitioned for conveyance onch to Japan.

The Indian and Trench boyers of silkworm eggs have returned to Europe, having this year made small purchases, although the prices have been very low.

Arinori Mori, Vice-Munster of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed as the head of a special concast of thin, and saits this month. During his absence Samesima, Envoy to France, now at home on leave, will act as vice-Minister.

ister.

The British Minister in Yeddo is making stremuous efforts to prevent the selection of Americans for positions of trust under the Japanese Gayerament.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF CATTLE.

TORONTO, Dec. 4.-The sale of shorthorns, traft-horses, and Cotswold sheep, at the Crystal Palac vesterday, was the largest ever held in Canada. The three highest prices paid were \$4,500 for Seventeenth Duke of Airdric, bought by A. McKlintock of Millers-burgh, Kentucky; \$4,000 for Kirkleighton Duchess Eighteenth, bought by H. Cochrane Campion, and \$3,700 for Oneida Rose, beught by B. B. Groom of Kentucky. The total sum realized was \$79,000.

CALAMITY NEAR MONTREAL. MONTREAL, Dec. 5 .- On Saturday the Rev. Pather Murpby, editor of The True Witness, the famous ecturer on Papal Infallibility &c., and the Rev. Father Lynch, a talented young priest, lately from Ireland, stopped at Lajeunesse's hotel. At night, after re-tiring, a fire broke out in the hotel, and Fathers Murphy and Lynch, and Madam Champague, a lady sleeping on the third flat, were burned to death before assistance could be rendered. Lajeunesse's Hotel was a large wooden building, and burned very rapidly. The flames spread to Marcott's Hotel opposite, and burned very rapidly structures were burned to the ground. Five thousand people visited the scene to-day.

FOREIGN NOTES.

TORONTO, Dec. 4 .- Treasurer Crooks estimates the probable revenue of Ontario for the year 1876 at \$2,350,000 and expenditures at \$2,135,245, leaving a

LONDON, Dec. 4 .- A dense fog hangs over RAGUSA, Dec. 5 .- Raouf Pasha succeeded in throwing fresh provisions into Goransko, but the in-

surgents assert that he was subsequently defeated near Gaischko, losing 1,000 killed and wounded. A RAILROAD THAT OBJECTS TO TAXES.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 5 .- In the United States Court yesterday a bill asking for an injunction to re-Court yesterday a bill asking for an injunction to re-strain the collection of the taxes assessed against the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, and also to enjoin certain counties from prosecuting certain suits for the collection of taxes, was argued by James Cun for the stockholders, and by Attorney-Gen-eral Hockaday for the State and counties. The case in-volves over \$500,000. The Judge took the matter under advisement till Jamanry, and requested the State Auditor and Attorney-General to instruct collectors not to levy until he has had time to consider the case. They agreed to do so.

A BOLD BLACK BEAR. MILFORD, Penn., Dec. 5 .- The inhabitants of the western side of this village were startled this morning by the appearance of a huge black bear which walked boldly down Waterst. It came from the mountains

NO QUARTER TO THE WHISKY RING.

GEN. BABCOCK INDICTED.

St. Louis, Dec. 5 .- The Grand Jury in this city found an indictment against Gen. Babcock, the private Secretary of the President, on Friday last, for his connection with the Whisky Ring. Owing to the absence of the District-Attorney, it was not announced in court yesterday, but will be without

THE COURT OF INQUIRY NOT TO IMPEDE THE

Washington, Dec. 5.—The President having granted the request of Gen. O. E. Bahcock for a court of inquiry into the charges recently made against him in St. Louis, yesterday designated Lieut.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan, Major-Gen. W. S. Hancock, and Brig.-Gen. A. H. Terry to compose the Court. They will be ordered to meet in Chicago, Dec. 9. Major Asa Bird Gardner, Pro-fessor of Law at the West Point Military Academy, has been detailed as Judge-Advocate of the Court. The official order provides that the Court shall report the facts as sound, and give an opinion in the case. Attorney General Pierrepent telegraphed to the United States Attorney at St. Louis yesterday advising that officer of the appointment of the Court, and instructing him that the appointment of the military court is in no way to stay any proceedings that the court authorities in St. Louis may determine upon as being proper in the case. The United States Alterney is also directed to give the court every aid required of him that is in his power, and to use all efforts to facilitate its thorough and compiete investigation of the charges. A joint telegram was sent to District Attorney Dyer, on the 2d instant, signed by the Attorney-General and the Secretary of the Treas ury, directing him to use every effort to prevent the imlication of any innecent person in the conspiracy to defraud the Government, but to spare no one who is guilty,

COLLEGE FIELD SPORTS.

MEETING OF THE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

Springfied, Mass., Dec. 4 .- A Convention of College men was held at the Massasoit House this afternoon for the purpose of forming an Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association. Ten Colleges were represented by delegates, as follows:

College, Delegates,
Atala rst. L. G. Breck,
Columbia, Randolpi Herry,
J. A. Reawick,
Cornell. A. M. Ensign,
Harvard, G. W. Greens,
Pronceton, W. T. Kauffman,
Trinty. J. D. McKennan,
W. C. Skinner,

College. Delegates, Union. . B. R. Hay voo), Williams . W. A. Flatt, S. Stodman, Wesleyan W. C. Welmee, Yale. . . . G. C. Wello, J. H. Hammend,

EThe delegates betook themselves to the parlor which had been made ready for their use, and the meeting was called to order about 2 o'clock. Mr. Greene of Harvard was elected Chairman, and Mr. Marquand of Princeton. Secretary. The business of the Convention had all been ment, and, under Mr. Greene's skillful management, the work of permanent organization was quietly and rapidly done. A committee appointed to prepare a constitution reported one which had been previously drawn up by Mr. Webb of Yale, making only a few changes in his copy. Each section was amended or adopted separately, and the whole was then unanimously adopted. The Consciention is closely modeled after that of the College Rowing Association, many sections of the latter Constiution being quoted almost word for word, with the substitution of the name, "An Athletic Association," for "A Rowing Association," "annual field meeting" for

The annual field meeting is to be completely under the preliminary arrangements for the contest, and have charge of all moneys paid for prizes or expended in necessary preparations. It is also their duty to select and award suitable prizes in the several contests, and to report at each annual meeting rules for the government of the sports. For the decision of all contests there is to be a committee of puriess, one from each college. All disputed points are to be decided by an ampure, who is to be chosen at the annual convention. The President of the Association is to be Chaffenian of the Committee on Sports, and the two remaining members of the Committee are to be elected by bailet at the annual convention. One section of the Constitution provides that "any graduate or extremiber of a college, who has at any time represented its college at a regular meeting of the Association, shall be an honorary member and have a right to speak in any convention. This seems like an attempt at future a bi-aggrantizement on the part of asylong delegates; but those who supported the clause assert that it with in instrumental in arouning more enthusiasan in faiture conventions. The constitution is as yet incomparation, shall touch to superior additional particular additional particular of the particular and the particular and the province of the particular and the parti fattare conventions. The constitution is as yet incomplete and faulty in some respects, and will require additions and amendments at an early day. For instance, the Committee on sports is required by the Constitution to provide prizes for the confests, and yet there is no provision for levying a tax and raising the necessary

unds.

In order to decide upon a place for the next field meetin order to decide upon a place for the next field meeting of the Asseciation and to adopt regulations for the several contests, it was resolved by the Convention to have another meeting in New-York City at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Jan. 5. The Committee on Sports was instructed to report regulations for the next field meeting at the New-York Convention, and also to correspond with the authorities of Springheid and New-Jondon in regard to the preparation of good race courses in case the course regards sould be held in either of these places. It is probable that the Howing Association will consider the advantances of a good course for the addecide aports, among the other inducements which any place may offer as a recatta ground for 1876. The onices for the ensuing year are: Precident, G. C. Webb; Vice-President, Hamborph Harry; Secretary, G. W. Greene; Trensurer, W. A. Platt.

The Committee on Almede Sports includes Messers. Webb, Greene; and walker. Communications for the Consulties are to be addressed to G. C. Webb, 31 S. Colings, New-Haven.

The entire business of the convention was concluded in three hours, and during the remition good order, courtesty, and the best of feeting prevailed.

MR. O'CONOR SLOWLY SINKING.

There was little change yesterday in Mr. O'Conor's ondition. He is constantly growing weaker, but otherwise he is nearly the same as during last week. He took more food yesterday than on Saturday. He has no nausca and no pain. His physician expressed no hopes of his recovery, and it is probable that his death will occur within a few days. He has seen no visitors during his sickness except Cardinal McCloskey, who has called three times since his return to this city. His last visit was made on Friday. Gov. Tilden called yesterday afternoon and expressed apprehension of his old friend's death and his sympathy with the family. The Governor, however, was not allowed to see Mr. O'Conor.

THE REDUCTION AT FALL RIVER.

OFFICERS AND ALL AFFECTED BY IT-NO TROUBLE EXPECTED.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 5 .- The extra reduction of wages of cotton-mill operatives in this city will go into effect to-morrow. From present indications there will be no trouble, the operatives knowing full well that

such a course on the part of the manufacturers was inand all, employed in and about the mills. The mill-owners state that they will advance the wages again, as soon as the market for their goods will admit. None of the unions-which in the past have incited the people to riot and commotion-are now in existence, from want of support, and to this fact is attributed the present har mony existing between the employer and the employes.

POLITICAL.

A BOLT IN BOSTON.

Boston, Dec. 5 .- At the meeting of the Republican Committee, which was held here Friday night to take action on the Mayoralty question, forty of the strongest members with President Shepard at their head boiled. They held an independent convention and nomi-nated Mayor Cobb. The Democrats also held a meeting but made no nomination.

MR. STROUD'S SUCCESSOR.

ALBANY, Dec. 5 .- Gov. Tilden has appointed Christopher A. Walrath Canal Commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Reuben A. Stroud. Mr. Walrath is the Canal Commissioner elect.

THE NEW GEORGIA STATE TREASURER. ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 5 .- The Hon. J. W. Rentroe of Washington County has been appointed State

TWEED A FUGITIVE.

HE ELUDES HIS KEEPERS AND DISAP. PEARS.

AN UNAVAILING SEARCH.

THE RESULT OF GRANTING SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO A WEALTHY PRISONER-TWEED'S RIDE ON SAT URDAY-HE ESCAPES FROM THE OFFICERS AT HIS OWN HOUSE-THE MANNER OF HIS DISAP-PEARANCE UNEXPLAINED-STATEMENTS OF HIS KEEPERS-FRUITLESS EFFORTS OF THE POLICE -COMMENTS ON THE FLIGHT BY LAWYERS ON

William M. Tweed escaped on Saturday from the custody of the Sheriff's officers, who had taken him out for a drive and visit to his family. Discovery of his flight is alleged to have been made within a few moments after his disappearance, but thorough search up to a late hour this morning had proved entirely unsuccessful. Nothing had been heard of the fugitive at the hour of going to press.

THE FLIGHT.

TWEED'S QUARTERS IN LUDLOW STREET JAH CON-SULTATION WITH HIS LAWYERS-THE AFTERNOON DRIVE-EASILY DELUDED OFFICERS-A SEARCH OF TWEED'S HOUSE WHICH GAVE NO LIGHT.

Immediately after the release of William M.

Tweed from the Blackwell's Island Pentientiary, on

June 27, he was taken to Ludlow Street Jail, and held as a prisoner in default of \$3,000,000 bail on the civil suits against him. Here he had waited, it may well be imagined impatiently, the decision of the Court of Appeals, upon two points of his case-the reduction of his bail and the application for a bill of particulars; both of which resulted adversely to him about a week or ten days ago. While in this custody of the Sheriff, Tweed had lived in what is called the "parlor of the jail." It is a large apartment in the wing of the building, with a separate private entrance by which the visitor or occupant may avoid the large reception room and office common to all prisoners and visitors. It was well even handsomely fur nished with mahogany and black walnut furniture covered with heavy blue rep, and decorated with curtains and pictures, which gave it an appearance of comfort and luxury. Mr. Tweed had added to the other engravings belonging to the room a picture -clipped from an illustrated paper-of himself entering the portals of the prison; a pen-and-ink cartoon by some friend representing Judge Davis (who sentenced Tweed to the Penitentiary) being extinguished by a huge pair of snuffers marked "Court of Appeals;" and prominently displayed above his bed a motto worked in silk, "In God we trust." For the privilege of this apartment Mr. Tweed, of course, paid the jailer, to whom the law allows or at least does not forbid perquisites of this sort. Mr. Tweed had other privileges also, for which he also paid, and these led finally to his escape. The Sheriff is not forbidden by law to allow prisoners on civil suits to leave the prison in custody of one or more officers; and the Warden seems on several occasions to have accompanied Mr. Tweed on drives through the city. on visits to his family, and on one occasion at least to a banquet at a hotel. On this latter occasion about two weeks ago, Civil Justice elect Timothy J Campbell was also of the party. Two officers appear to have always accompanied the prisoner. It is not positive that Sheriff Conner gave his consent to these trips. Warden Dunham says that on Saturday be acted on his own authority. Sheriff Conner, howover, is reported as saying that he had refuctantly given permission to the Warden to take Tweed out for a drive in search of bail.

Saturday morning by the Deputy Warden Gardner who, as a notary, certified to his signature to a legal paper which his lawyer, Mr. Edelsten, had brought him. David Dudley Field also saw Tweed the same morning, so that he could not have been gone days ago, as some have supposed. About 1 o'clock, Tweed was let out at the public door by Hughes, a keeper, and, accompanied by Warden Dunham and Edward Hagan as officers, and by William M. Tweed, jr., his brought to the door. The driver was unknown to the officers, one of whom stated last night that he did not know where to find him. The party was driven through Fifth-ave, and Central Park to the upper part of the island, and back again, and, after alighting in the Park for a short stroll, to Mr. Tweed's residence, No. 647 Madisonave., between Fifty-ninth and Stxtieth-sts. They reached this point at about 4:30 o'clock in the after noon, and all entered. How they occupied themselves from that time until about 6:30 p. m. is not yet known, though the officers claim that they were with their prisoner, his sen, and son in-law, Mr Douglass, in the back parlor of the house. Mrs. Tweed and two other ladies were above stairs on the second floor. Shortly before the last-named hour Mr. Tweed suggested that he would "slip up stairs and see Mrs. Tweed." To this the officers gave assent. Tweed, leaving his hat and coat on the rack in the hall, started up the stairs, as Hagan says, but he does not appear ever to have reached the top. He wore thick rubber over-shoes, which muffled his otherwise heavy tread, and if he turned, as the officers think and deliberately walked through the hall and out of the front door, his movements were unheard as well as unseen by them. This be might have done, as in descending the stairs and traversing the ball to the entrance he would not have to pass the door leading to the back parlor in which the officers sat at the moment. It is uncertain that he passed out in this way, but highly probable, as subsequent examination showed that he could not have left by the souttle hole leading to the roof, and to reach the basement he would have had to pass in full view of the fficers in the back parlor.

Tweed was last seen at the jail about 1012 o'clock

He had been gone from the parlor about ten minutes when Warden Dunham suggested to Wm. M Tweed, jr., to call his father, as the officers wished to return early to the jail. The son ascended the anirs, and in three minutes returned with the starting intelligence that his father had not been to his nother's room at all. There was instant excitement and apparently much confusion. The son and son in-law either felt or simulated great distress, and the former is said to have upbraided his father with having ruined his family by his flight. The officers either affected great astonishment and nervousness, or were in fact greatly excited. Dunbam "felt as though he would fall in two." Hagan ran to the floor above, calling the son to follow him, and searched the closets and rooms. The Warden ran to the front door and looked at the area-way and basement door, finding the latter fastened. The coach had been driven around the corner into S.xtieth-st.; consequently Tweed's exit. if by the front door, would have been unobserved by the driver. Fifteen minutes were spent in the scarch of the house, according to the Warden, and then the officers sprang into the coach and were driven hastily to the Nineteenth Precinct Station-house, where Dunham, in a very excited manner, reported the escape to Capt. Mount, and asked to have a general alarm sent out. This was done at precisely 7:13 p. m., and a few minutes later the news was flashed al over the city, and by telegraph to Brooklyn, Jersey City, Philadelphia, and other cities, with a request to arrest Tweed wherever found. Warden Dunham and Hogan then drove in search of Sheriff Conner, and not finding him, subsequently went to Police Headquarters, where they reported the facts at 7:30 p. m. to Inspector Dilks who was in charge of the Department during the absence of Superi